



**Public Hearing Testimony of
Glenn Marshall, Commissioner
Department of Labor
Labor and Public Employees Committee
March 8, 2012**

Good Afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zalaski, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Rigby and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding ***Senate Bill #328 AAC Technical and Other Changes to the Labor Department Statutes***. My name is Glenn Marshall and I am the Commissioner of the Department of Labor.

I urge your support of this bill which, among other things, does the following:

Repeals several obsolete reports:

- DOL report regarding the employment of minors. DOL has never filed such reports concerning data for the employment of minors. Cases are not reported to a prosecutor unless we are seeking to go criminally.
- DOL report regarding the awarding of contracts to National Labor Relations Act violators. The CT DOL does not have any jurisdiction over the National Labor Relations Act and we do not compile such a list.
- DOL report regarding the aggregate usage of FMLA by employees. It was an extra burden on employers to report the aggregate usage of FMLA by its employees so DOL tried to collect the data electronically in order to avoid the printing and mailing costs. However, the response by employers was very low so the data collected was not helpful because it was not a true representation of the aggregate usage of FMLA by Connecticut employees.

Repeals obsolete statutes:

- DOL displaced homemaker program. This program has been de-funded by the Legislature and no longer exists.
- DOL wage board. This Board no longer exists and these duties are now performed by DOL's Wage and Workplace Standards investigators.

Streamlines Incumbent Worker Training/ Individual Development Account statutes:

- Combines the 21st Century Jobs and Incumbent Workers programs into 1 Incumbent Worker Training program. These changes will provide a state-wide framework for businesses to access for assistance. It will consolidate the current 6 separate applications for funding into one application prescribed by the Labor Department.

- Makes other technical changes which improves funding opportunities for DOL's Individual Development Account (IDA) customers and reflects current practice.

Minor Technical Clarification

- Makes a technical change to **CGS 31-232b** which is our Extended Benefits (EB) law. The EB Program provides 13 to 20 weeks of extended unemployment benefits to states experiencing high levels of unemployment. Although our current EB statute correctly conforms to the federal 13 week definition of this program, an inconsistency exists in two minor sections of the law that incorrectly states the time period as "three months" instead of "thirteen weeks". This technical change corrects that oversight by simply deleting "three months" in those two minor sections and inserting "thirteen weeks".

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am available for any questions you might have.